

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dispensing structure for mounting at an opening defined in a generally planar wall portion of a container to accommodate the discharge of the contents from the interior of the container, said dispensing structure comprising:

(I) a multi-piece fitment adapted to be mounted to said container, said fitment including

(A) a base that has

(1) a flange adapted to be sealingly bonded to said container planar wall portion around said opening, and

(2) a hollow projection that

(i) extends from said flange,

(ii) defines at least a portion of a dispensing passage for establishing communication between the exterior and interior of said container, and

(iii) defines an external thread, and

(B) a valve carrier for mounting to said fitment base hollow projection and having

(1) an internally threaded skirt that is adapted to be threadingly engaged with said hollow projection external thread, and

(2) a unitary spout that extends from said skirt and that defines a portion of said dispensing passage; and

(II) a flexible valve that

(A) is disposed within said valve carrier secured across said dispensing passage, and

(B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said container.

09496304.44998

2. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 1 in which

said fitment base hollow projection is adapted to extend through said container opening; and

5 said fitment base flange is adapted to be secured to said container planar wall portion on the interior side of said planar wall portion.

10 3. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 1 in which said dispensing structure includes a removable and disposable cover extending from said container to define a hermetically sealed volume around the part of said fitment projecting beyond said planar wall portion, said cover comprising an integral  
15 extension of material which defines said container, said dispensing structure further including a weakened, frangible connection where said cover extends from said container to accommodate removal of said cover by breaking said frangible connection.

20 4. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 1 in which

said fitment base flange is annular and is adapted to be disposed on the interior of said container sealingly secured to said container planar wall portion;

25 said fitment base hollow projection has an outer annular end; and

said dispensing structure further includes a membrane that is releasably secured across said outer  
30 annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said dispensing passage defined by said base hollow projection.

35 5. A dispensing structure for mounting in an opening of a thin walled, flexible, collapsible

09496301 111998

container to accommodate the discharge of the contents from the interior of the container, said dispensing structure comprising:

5 a fitment that is (1) adapted to be disposed in said opening to extend from said container, (2) has a peripheral sealing surface that is sealingly bondable to said container around said opening, and (3) defines a dispensing passage for establishing communication between the exterior and interior of said container; and

10 a flexible valve that (1) is disposed within said fitment across said fitment dispensing passage, and (2) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said container.

6. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 5 in which

20 said dispensing structure is adapted for mounting in an opening of a container which has the form of a collapsible pouch defined by at least two opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define said opening;

25 said fitment has a hollow base that has two lateral ends and that defines two generally oppositely facing walls which converge and terminate at each of said two lateral ends, each said wall defining an exterior surface portion for being sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said opening, said hollow base defining at least a portion of said dispensing passage; and

30 said fitment includes a spout that (1) extends from said hollow base, and (2) defines at least a portion of said dispensing passage; and

09196301.11993  
060777 "T0296160

said valve includes a flange sealingly secured to said spout within said dispensing passage.

5           7. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 6 in which said fitment base is molded from a thermoplastic material that is adapted to be heat sealed to said web portions wherein each said web portion includes a layer of foil covered on the container interior with a layer of thermoplastic material suitable for being heat sealed to said fitment base walls.

15           8. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 6 in which each said fitment base wall defines three, spaced-apart, parallel ribs.

          9. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 8 in which each said rib has a generally triangular transverse cross section.

20           10. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 6 in which  
            said hollow base has a generally flat deck;  
            said spout extends above said deck;  
            said spout includes an inner annular shoulder  
25      defining a frustoconical seating surface; and  
            said valve has a flange defining a mounting surface for sealingly engaging said spout seating surface.

30           11. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 5 in which  
            said fitment has an outer annular end; and  
            said dispensing structure further includes a  
35      membrane that is releasably secured across said outer annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said

09196301-11998

Sub  
B1

con 4  
Sub  
A1 } dispensing passage defined by said base hollow  
projection.

12. A package comprising:

5 a container with an upper end defined at least by

(A) two generally parallel, spaced-apart  
sidewalls,

(B) two generally parallel, spaced-apart end  
walls joining said sidewalls,

10 (C) a top wall joining said sidewalls and one  
of said end walls, and

(D) and a generally planar corner wall that

(1) is disposed at an oblique angle to  
said top wall and end walls,

15 (2) joins said top wall, said sidewalls,  
and one of said end walls, and

(3) defines an opening to the container  
interior;

20 a hollow fitment sealingly mounted to said corner  
wall at said opening and defining a dispensing passage  
in communication with the interior of said container;

a flexible valve that

(A) is disposed within said hollow fitment  
across said fitment dispensing passage, and

25 (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to  
permit flow therethrough in response to increased  
pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior  
of said container;

30 a removable and disposable cover extending from  
said container over the part of said fitment projecting  
beyond said planar corner wall to define a hermetically  
sealed volume around the part of said fitment projecting  
beyond said planar corner wall; and

35 releasable attachment means for sealingly attaching  
said cover to said container.

09196301 111998

13. The package in accordance with claim 12  
in which

said end walls, sidewalls, and top wall each  
comprises a web of material;

5 said cover includes an integral extension of  
said material from said top wall, said sidewalls, and  
one of said end walls beyond said planar corner wall;  
and

10 said releasable attachment means includes  
weakened, frangible regions along edges of said cover  
adjacent said planar corner wall.

14. The package in accordance with claim 13  
in which said frangible regions include partial  
15 perforations in said extension of said material along  
said edges of said top wall, said sidewalls, and one of  
said end walls.

15. The package in accordance with claim 12  
20 in which said cover has the configuration of a hollow,  
triangular prism.

16. The package in accordance with claim 12  
in which

25 said fitment includes an annular flange heat  
sealed to said planar corner wall on the interior of  
said container;

said fitment has an outer annular end; and  
30 a membrane is releasably secured across said  
outer annular end to sealingly occlude said dispensing  
passage.

17. A package comprising:  
35 a collapsible pouch defined by at least two,  
opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together

09496304 111998

adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that  
are separated at a peripheral region to define an  
opening to the interior region;

o a fitment defining a dispensing ~~package~~ <sup>passage</sup> and  
5 having a hollow base that has two lateral ends and that  
defines two generally oppositely facing walls which  
converge and terminate at each of said two lateral ends,  
each said wall defining an exterior surface portion  
sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said  
10 opening, said fitment hollow base defining at least a  
portion of said dispensing passage through said fitment,  
said fitment including a spout that (A) extends from  
said hollow base, and (B) defines at least a portion of  
said dispensing passage;

15 a flexible valve that (A) is disposed within  
said hollow fitment across said fitment dispensing  
passage, and (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to  
permit flow therethrough in response to increased  
pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior  
20 of said pouch; and

a removable and disposable cover formed as  
extensions of at least two of said pouch web portions  
which enclose said fitment spout and which have  
peripheral margins sealed together to define a  
25 hermetically sealed volume around said fitment spout.

2. 18. The package in accordance with claim 17  
in which said cover includes weakened, frangible regions  
along edges of said cover adjacent said pouch.

3. 19. The package in accordance with claim 17  
in which

said pouch web portions each has a generally  
rectangular configuration generally defining three right  
35 angle corners and one mitered corner; and

said fitment is disposed in said opening at  
said mitered corner.

*4* *Package*  
*B* 20. The ~~dispensing structure~~ in accordance  
5 with claim *17* in which

said fitment spout has an outer annular end;  
and

said dispensing structure further includes a  
membrane that is releasably secured across said outer  
10 annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said  
*B* dispensing passage defined by said ~~base~~ *spout* hollow  
*B* ~~projection~~.

*add*  
*B'*

00192304.11998  
86677" T0296160